



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

## MEMO

**DATE:** December 20, 2007

**TO:** Martin L. Shultz, Chairman  
School District Redistricting Commission

**FROM:** Lyle Friesen  
Legislative Business Policy Advisor, School Finance

**RE:** Small School Weights v. Small School Adjustments

This memorandum is in response to your request for information about the difference between small school weights and small school adjustments.

### Small School Weight

A.R.S. §15-943 provides increased funding to small school districts, with a student count of fewer than 600 for KG and grades 1 through 8 and/or fewer than 600 for grades 9 through 12. As the student count decreases below 600, the weight increases from 1.158 for KG - 8 range and 1.268 for 9 through 12 range, to weights of 1.399 and 1.559 respectively. These smaller school districts may be eligible for even higher weighting factors if they meet the small isolated definitions in A.R.S §15-901.

### Small School Adjustment

A.R.S. §15-949 provides small school districts, with a student count of fewer than 125 for KG and grades 1 through 8 and/or fewer than 100 for grades 9 through 12 the authority to increase their budget limits based on need, without voter approval. Need is determined by the governing board of the school district. The small school adjustment equates to the difference between the amount budgeted by the school district and the amount generated under the statutory limitations applied to districts with student counts greater than 125 and/or 100. Statute does not place a limitation on the amount of the small school adjustment. Statute does provide for a phase down, should the district's student count exceed 125 and/or 100. This phase down of the adjustment must be approved by the voters and phases out entirely when the districts reaches 154 elementary and 176 high school students.